MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, next question 142. (*Interruption*) No, I have given 20 minutes to this question. Therefore, next question.

Memorial in Memory of Freedom Fighters deported to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

@*142. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether Government have any proposal under their consideration for setting up a suitable memorial in the memory of those freedom fighters who had been deported to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): The Cellular Jail has already been set up as a national memorial, the administrative block is being maintained as a Museum, by the local administration, photographs of freedom fighters and other materials have already been exhibited in the Museum.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Hashim Kidwai. No supplementary? Mr. Ramanand Yadav.

श्री रामानन्द यादव : मान्यवर, देश के आजाद होने के तत्काल मैंने सेल्युलर जेल विजिट किया । क्या सरकार को मालूम है कि जेल के कुछ हिस्से को हास्पिटल के रूप में कनवर्ट कर दिया गया है ? क्या सरकार इस बात पर विचार करेगी कि जो सारा पुराना जेल है उसको फ्रीडम फाइटर्स के मोनूमेंट के रूप में प्रिजर्व किया जाय और जिन कमरों में जो फ्रीडम फाइटर्स थे---अभी उनका नाम लिखा हुआ है छोटे अक्षरों में---वहां उनका नाम लिखेगी और उनकी एक शार्ट हिस्टरी लिखाने की व्यवस्था करेगी, साथ ही उसके सामने जो बड़ा सा मैदान है उस मैदान में एक मेमोरियल पिलर खड़ा करेगी, एक हाल बनायेंगी जिसमें यादगार के रूप में जितने फ्रीडम फाइटर्स थे उनकी हिस्टरी रखने की व्यवस्था करेगी ?

@Previously starred Question 62, transferred from the 27th February, 1986.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must ask questions. You should not go on giving suggestions.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: I want an assurance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No assurance can be asked for...

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: We can extract an assurance from the Ministers by putting questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will tell you the correct procedure. If you merely make suggestions, it will be only suggestions for action. Therefore, you must ask a question so that the Minister may reply to it pointedly. Yes, the Minister.

श्रीमती सुशीला रोहतगी : मान्यवर, माननीय सदस्य ने अपने सुझावों के साथ कुछ प्रश्न भी उठाए हैं जिनका मैं उत्तर देना चाहूंगी । इसके बारे में मुझे कहना है कि सेल्युलर जेल स्वयं इस समय एक नेशनल मोनूमेंट के रूप में डेडीकेट कर दिया है 1979 से, जिसका आप स्वागत करेंगे । दूसरे फ्रीडम फाइटर्स की मांग थी कि इसको मेमोरियल बनाया जाय । हमारे राष्ट्रपति महोदय ने पिछले वर्ष 23 फरवरी, 1985 को इसे नेशनल मोनूमेंट, मेमोरियल का रूप दिया । एक और मांग थी कि जो फ्रीडम फाइटर्स वहां रहे हैं, जो यातनाएं उन्होंने सही हैं उनकी मेमोरी को सेल्युलर जेल कम्पाउंड में कमेमोरेट किया जाय, इसका प्रयास किया गया है । 7,22,840 रुपए कंस्ट्रक्शन पर खर्च किया गया है ।

माननीय सदस्य स्वयं वरिष्ठ स्वतंत्रता से नानी हैं, उन्होंने जो सुझाव दिए हैं उन पर विचार किया जायगा और यदि सम्भव हुआ तो उचित कार्यवाही की जायगी ।

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, it is good that in Port Blair, at the cellular jail some sort of a memorial has been set up by the Government. These freedom fighters who were deported to the cellular jail in Anda-

mans played a very vital role in the freedom struggle of our country. Even earlier, during the Sepoy Mutiny, that is the first war of independence, many of the sepoys were deported to Andamans. Now very few people have the chance to visit Port Blair and see the memorial there. Particularly the new generation hardly knows anything about the freedom fighters who were deported to Andamans. So to give them some intimate knowledge about the freedom fighters who were deported to Andamans, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is prepared to set up some sort of a memorial in a place like Delhi which is visited by so many people, giving the stories connected with those freedom fighters.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Sir, there is already a museum and also a library in the cellular jail, where the life and the nature of sentences undergone by our freedom fighters are depicted. We find the photographs also of these freedom fighers there. And since the Department of Culture took this over from the Home Ministry, three volumes of Who's Who consisting of the lives of about 10,000 patriots, have also been brought out, which can be read by the people. it can be read by the people Apart from that, the history of penal settlement of Andamans by a very eminent historian, Dr. Mazumdar, which contains a history of this record of prisoners has been brought out. A booklet about cellular jail has also been out. In addition to that, in reply to the question posed by the hon. Member, I would say that it is a good suggestion that we should have the history of this independence period and particularly this period. These records are preserved in the National Archives, in the Nehru Memorial Museum and State Archives in many parts of the country so that the children, students and people of this country can benefit and learn about the lives of our great warriors.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: It is indeed very good that the cellular jail where thousands of our patriots had to suffer rigours of the tortuous prison life, has been dedicated to the nation. But I don't agree to the suggestion of Mr. Sukomal Sen that a memorial should be erected in Delhi because you cannot erect a memorial in Delhi for Chittagong or for Andamans or for Jalianwala Bagh. What is, in fact needed is that the visitors should be encouraged to visit that very sanctified jail. So, in order to encourage the visitors to these islands, will the Government consider developing the town of Port Blair making it a free cort and creating a sort of infra-structure there in order or attract the tourists?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I will answer this question by saying that since all the hon. Members are interested in going and seeing them and since we have the passport or travel facilities, may I invite all of them to go and have a look at it and if they have any more suggestion we will look into them.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: I was talking of the people of the nation. They should go there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. Mr. Chitta Basu.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, the Andamans and Nicobar Islands are two places which are indissolubly connected with the history of our freedom movement, not only because many of our freedom fighters had to spend a very long span of life in prison there but even the International Army was also there for some time when it was liberated from the British imperialism. In this case, some suggestions have been made from different quarters of public opinion that the name of the Andamans should be changed to Saheed and Swaraj. Is the Government prepared to consider this proposal to rename it as Saheed and Swaraj Island in order to permanently immortalise the contribution made by the

martyrs and liberation fighters of our country?

MR. CHAIRMAN: And Netaji Subhash Bose.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Sir, I totally agree with the hon. Member that Andamans and Nicobar Islads have played a very important part and our people have gone through a lot of incarceration. Although a number of suggestions have come before the Government, I am afraid that this suggestion in particular has not come. I am not aware of this suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has come before. In fact, this island was renamed as 'Saheed' by Netaji.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Sir, it is the privilege of the Government to instal a memorial for the freedom fighters. I would like to bring to the notice of the Government, through you, that the Government of Maharashtra has created a Hutatma Smarak in difftrent towns and villages and those places where the freedom fighters made their supreme sacrifices for the cause of national freedom. It has created a very good feeling and atmosphere in the people of the area Does the Government think on those lines that Hutatma Smaraks in different parts of the country can be created on the lines of the Maharashtra Government?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Discussion relates to Andamans.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: It is concerned with Hutatma Smaraks. Whether it is a Andamans and Nicobars or Delhi or Madras or other places, the freedom fighters come from the villages and towns. Hutatma Smaraks should be installed so that our coming generation...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not agree. This question relates to Andamans and Nicobar Islands. Next question.

Theft of Idols

*143. SHRI SHANKER SINH BAGHELA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of theft of idols have considerably increased in the country;

(b) if so, what is the number of such cases during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) what steps Government have taken for the recovery of idols and to apprehend the idol lifters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: (a) While there was an increase in theft of idols in the country, in 1984, there is a declining trend in 1985 according to available information.

(b) The number of such cases during the last three years is as under:—

Year	No. of cases
1983	302
1984	337
1985	287

(c) Several measures have been taken to prevent thefts in the centrally protected monuments as indicated in the enclosed statement.

Statement

1. Armed Guards have been posted in fifteen centrally protected monuments and musums administered by the Archaeological Survey of India, in addition to strengthening of watch and ward arrangements in other monuments/sites.